Col. Olney undoubtedly had in view a chair similar to that occupied by Prof. Gray, at Harvard, but his wording is unfortunate for the good of our science, or indeed of any other.

The time has gone by when a composite chair of natural science is desirable or even feasible. Another unhappy oversight in the testator was his neglect to provide for the payment of a curator. A large herbarium can easily and profitably occupy a man's whole time. As the increase of the library is the function of the Library Committee, so will be the matter of addition to the herbarium.—W. W. Bailey.

Curtiss' 4th Fascicle of Southern Plants.—As I am unable to answer inquiries in regard to my next distribution, being absent from home this fall, I beg leave to inform my friends through the Gazette that Fascicle IV now in preparation and to be issued next winter, will be uniform in all respects with Fascicle III. I think, however, that the specimens will be more satisfactory, as I have a better supply of materials. My collections of 1879 suffered much from the humidity of the country in which I worked. The wonder is that they were not wholly ruined. This year I have collected mainly on the southern and western coasts of Florida, and have had excellent success. The observations I have made this year will add largely to our previous knowledge of Floridian Botany, extending and defining the range of most plants ascribed to "South Florida," including nearly all of those recently reported by Dr. Chapman through the Gazette to which I am now able to add two or three dozen more species, including three Palms and two epidendric Orchids.—A. H. C.

Notes From Racine, Wis.—Concerning Mr. Cochran's note on *Physalis grandiflora*, Hook. Dr. Lewis Sherman, of Milwaukee, Wis., informs me that he collected the plant in 1874, at Stevens' Point, Wis., which is near the centre of the State, and in about the same latitude as Mr. Cochran's station. I was interested in the articles of Mr. L. H. Bailey, Jr., but missed some plants common on the lake-shore here *Aster angustus*, Torr. and Gray, has been very abundant on and near the beach, but is scarce this season, whether, owing to the mild winter, the wet summer or some other cause, I am unable to say. *Ranunculus Cymbalaria*, L., is a common plant on the beach. *Salix Barclayi*, Anders, *S. amygdaloides*, Anders, *S. longifolia*, Muhl., *S. lucida*, Muhl. and *S. purpurea*, L., are more or less abundant on the beach and sides of the bluffs. The common grass of the the beaches here is *Sporobolus cryptandrus*, Gray. On the wet, clayey sides of a gully in the lake bank, *Triglochin palustre*, L., and *Lobelia Kalmii*, L., are abundant. Fortunately for the root-digger, *Asclepias tuberosa*, L., grows in the sand, but is not very abundant.

The Asclepiads seem to have a tendency toward whorled leaves. Besides the species in which such an arrangement is common, I have collected *A. incarnata*, L., with a whorl of four leaves, and *A. Cornuti*, Decaisne, with leaves in both threes and fours and other specimens with very short internodes.

The length of the peduncle does not seem to be a very reliable character by which to separate *Trillium erectum*, L., var. *declinatum*, Gray and *T. cernuum*, L. The peduncles of the former are sometimes very short, while those of the latter increase in length while the flower matures. The purplish anthers of the latter, with the greater separation of the anther cells and more contracted base of the leaf are the characters I use.

I found last summer a specimen of *Trillium recurvatum*, Beck, with leaves and parts of the flowers in fours. *Barbarea vulgaris*, R. Br., seems to be perennial here.—J. T. Davis, M. D.

Stipules in Onagraceæ.—Prof. Baillon says (*Bull. mensuel, Soc. Lin. de Paris*, No. 33) that in the majority of works on descriptive botany, this family is mentioned as characterized by the constant absence of stipules, and in justification of this quotes the classical works of Decaisne, Duchartre, Endlicher and Hooker; nevertheless, he states that the existence of these organs in this family admits of easy proof, not indeed that they ever occur of large dimensions, for then they could not have escaped detection, but still they are present, more commonly as little subulate tongue-like bodies, acute, often red-colored at the base of the petioles in both opposite and alternate-leaved plants. In Hanya they soon turn black and wither off early. In the fuchsia of our gardens little stipules are often present. In Circæa they can also be detected. In the Lopezia of our gardens all the leaves have two very distinct stipules, which, indeed, have been often referred to in botanical works, and it is the same with Haloragea, though Bentham and Hooker describe them as here absent.—Nature.

Floridian Ferns.—Next winter I intend to prepare for the Gazette a list of the Ferns of Florida, with the geographical bounds of each species, which my travels in the peninsula will enable me to do pretty accurately. I expect to have ready in December a second set of Southern Ferns, and a second issue of the first set, mostly collected in different localities. I have just prepared a fourth set of Pteris collected in the heart of Charleston City. It was brought to my attention by Prof. Lewis R. Gibbes, of Charleston College, who says he sent specimens to Prof. Eaton, who pronounced it *P. serrulata*. Most of the yards in Charleston are surrounded by massive walls, which, crumbling and deeply shaded, invite the growth of all sorts of Cryptogams, and many Phaenogams. It is many years since Prof. Gibbes first noticed this form, in fact, I think he called my attention to it when there five years ago. I prepared full sets of this and three other Charleston plants, namely, *Stillingia sebifera*, *Alternanthera Achyrantha* and a Verbena, not mentioned by Chapman, a very peculiar "Vervain." I am now on my way to the Southern Alleghanies and mean to search out a peculiar Abies, which Prof. Gibbes has observed there.—A. H. Curtiss.